

(146)

CORRESPONDENCE RE PURCHASE OF "RAINBOW."

OTTAWA, 8th November, 1909.

MEMO FOR ACTING DEPUTY MINISTER.

The following telegram has been received from the Admiralty, in Naval Code, viz.:
Arrangement discussed with Brodeur was purchase of one Cruiser of 'Apollo' type fitted for sea service in April next, money not being available for second vessel. Detailed report now received indicated one such cruiser could be supplied for 50,000 pounds sterling. First Lord of the Admiralty desires to know whether this arrangement is to be proceeded with, and whether money will be forthcoming for second cruiser. Otherwise Brodeur should state specifically what Canadian Government wish as an alternative.

C. E. KINGSMILL,
Rear Admiral.

11th November, 1909.

GRAHAM GREENE,
Admiralty, London.

Canadian Government would like arrangements for one 'Apollo' proceeded with, and wish to know if 'Spartiate' can be obtained for second cruiser and on what terms. Reply by telegraph requested.

KINGSMILL.

Certified Copy of a Report of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 22nd November, 1909.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries states, under date the 12th November, 1909, that, in accordance with arrangements made during the recent Imperial Defence Conference, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have offered to supply for service on the Coasts of Canada one Third-Class Cruiser of the 'Apollo' type fitted for sea in April, 1910, and to be handed over to the Government of Canada for the consideration of Fifty Thousand Pounds Sterling.

The Minister, therefore, recommends that he be authorized to proceed with the purchase of a cruiser, as indicated by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the above mentioned terms.

The Committee submit the same for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

OTTAWA, 15th November, 1909.

MEMO. FOR DEPUTY MINISTER.

Submitted:—

Herewith is a copy of a telegram received from the Admiralty this morning in the Naval Code. The 'Hawk' class mentioned are cruisers of 7,350 tons, completed in 1893, had an original nominal speed of 20 knots, and a complement of 544 men. These ships have the old Marine Boilers, and would not give sufficient training to the Stokers or Engine Room Ratings. Moreover they have two 9.2 inch guns, a class of gun which will not be used in our new cruisers. Submit that the Admiralty be informed that the 'Hawk' class are not as acceptable as 'Spartiate.'

In fact these ships are not as suitable at all as a 'Spartiate' would be for training purposes.

C. E. KINGSMILL,
Rear Admiral.

NOTE.—Seen by the Minister and Approved.—G. J. DESBARATS.—17-11-'09.

15th November, 1909.

KINGSMILL,—

Treasury being asked sanction sale 'Rainbow' to Canadian Government £50,000. Have you considered 'Hawk' class as an alternative to 'Spartiate.'

GREENE.

17th November, 1909.

GRAHAM GREENE,
Admiralty, London.

'Hawke' class not considered suitable, 'Spartiate' class preferred, better accommodation, armament more modern, and carrying No. 9.2 guns, moreover water tube boilers. If a 'Spartiate' approved, on what terms could one be loaned and on what date will be available for Canadian Government.

KINGSMILL.

19th November, 1909.

GRAHAM GREENE,
Admiralty, London.

With reference to my telegram 17th November, after the word loaned insert the words 'or sold.'

KINGSMILL.

Telegram.

Decipher of telegram sent to Admiralty 4th December, 1909.

GRAHAM GREENE,
Admiralty, London.

Is question under consideration as to loan or sale of a 'Spartiate' or is it necessary to communicate through official channel.

KINGSMILL.

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Decipher of telegram from Admiralty dated 7th December, 1909.

ADMIRAL KINGSMILL,
Naval Staff Office,
Ottawa.

Question of 'Spartiate' still under consideration, hope to shortly communicate further. When will Canadian Government send answer to Colonial Office telegram 2nd December *re* purchase of 'Rainbow,' time is important?

GREENE.

6th December, 1909.

The High Commissioner for Canada,
17 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

My Lord,—

I have the honour to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the Canadian Government wish the arrangements for the purchase of a Cruiser of the 'Apollo' class proceeded with.

The following information is forwarded to assist you in your negotiations with the Secretary of the Admiralty:—

In July and August this year, the Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Canada, then attending the Imperial Conference on the Naval and Military Defence of the Empire, made some enquiries of the Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, as to the possibility of the Lords Commissioners consenting to the loan or sale of a Cruiser of the 'Apollo' class to the Canadian Government, and Mr. McKenna promised to give consideration to the matter, and inform Mr. Brodeur on what terms a Cruiser of the 'Apollo' class could be disposed of.

On 8th November an informal cablegram was received from the Assistant Secretary to the Admiralty saying, 'Arrangement discussed with Brodeur was purchase of one Cruiser of 'Apollo' type fitted for sea service in April next, money not being available for second vessel. Detailed reports now received indicate one cruiser could be supplied for £50,000 sterling. First Lord of the Admiralty desires to know whether this arrangement is to be proceeded with, and whether money will be forthcoming for second cruiser. Otherwise Brodeur should state specifically what Canadian Government wishes as an alternative.'

A reply was sent as follows, also informal, or direct to the Admiralty:—'Government would like arrangements for one 'Apollo' proceeded with, and wish to know if a 'Spartiate' could be secured for second Cruiser, and on what terms. Reply by telegram requested.'

Since then, on 3rd December, a cable has been received through the Governor General's office, asking for confirmation of His Excellency's Government.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that an Order of Governor-in-Council has been passed, authorizing the purchase of this vessel, and it is requested that their Lordships will be pleased to proceed in the repair and fitting out of this vessel.

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister.

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

7th December, 1909.

Right Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G.,
High Commissioner for the Dominion,
17 Victoria Street, London.

My Lord,—

I have the honour to request you will be pleased to approach the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the following:—

While attending the Conference on the Naval and Military Defence of the Empire in London, July and August, 1909, an informal request was made to the Admiralty to consider on what terms they could provide Canada with two Cruisers of the 'Apollo' class. Since then negotiations for the purchase of one 'Apollo' have been entered into, but as it was found that it would be more expedient for training purposes if a Cruiser of 'Spartiate' class could be obtained instead of an 'Apollo,' a cablegram to that effect was sent on 11th November, informally, to the Assistant Secretary of the Admiralty. The following was the text:—'Canadian Government would like arrangements for one 'Apollo' proceeded with, and wish to know if 'Spartiate' can be obtained for second Cruiser, and on what terms. Reply by telegraph requested.'

A reply was received to this cable as follows:—

'Treasury being asked sanction sale 'Rainbow' to Canadian Government £50,000. Have you considered 'Hawke' class as an alternative to 'Spartiate.'

To this the following reply was sent, on 17th November, 1909:—'Hawke' class not considered suitable. 'Spartiate' class preferred, better accommodation, armament more modern, and carrying No. 9.2-in. guns, moreover watertube boilers. If a 'Spartiate' approved, on what terms would one be loaned and on what date will be available for Canadian Government?'

I have now the honour to ask your Lordship to approach the Admiralty and to ascertain on what terms the Canadian Government can obtain a cruiser of either type sanctioned, *i.e.*, 'Spartiate' or 'Edgar.'

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister.

FROM LORD CREWE TO LORD GREY.

LONDON, 14th December 1909.

When may reply be expected to my telegram of 2nd December, purchase of 'Rainbow.'

CREWE.

17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.
17th December, 1909.

The Honourable
The Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Desbarats' letter of the 6th instant, regarding the purchase of a Cruiser for the Canadian Government, and to state, in reply, that I had pleasure in at once addressing a communication to the First Lord of the Admiralty, in which I notified him that the purchase of a steamer of the 'Apollo' class had been authorised by the Dominion Government, and that I was instructed to request that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may be pleased to proceed in the repair and fitting out of the vessel in question.

I need hardly say that I shall be glad to be of any service in the matter that may be required, and will give such details as may arise my best consideration.

STRATHCONA.

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31st December, 1909.

The Right Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,
High Commissioner for the Dominion,
17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

My Lord,—

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 17th instant, informing me that action had been taken in the matter of the 'Rainbow' as requested in a letter of the 6th December, signed by my Deputy Minister.

I beg to thank your Lordship for promising to give your best consideration to such details as may arise in this matter.

L. P. BRODEUR.

Admiralty, Whitehall, S.W.,
17th December, 1909.

Dear Lord Strathcona,—

I am much obliged for your letter regarding the cruiser for Canada which you were so good as to bring to me personally to the Admiralty. The necessary action in the matter is now being taken in the Department.

REGINALD McKENNA.

17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.,
17th December, 1909.

Dear Mr. Brodeur,—

In further reference to my official letter of to-day's date, I have now received a personal note from Mr. McKenna from which you will gather, that as you desired, the necessary action is being taken by the Admiralty in regard to the cruiser for Canada. I am sending a copy of Mr. McKenna's letter with this.

STRATHCONA.

11th January, 1910.

Right Honourable

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,
17 Victoria Street, London, England.

Dear Lord Strathcona,—

In the absence of my Minister I have to acknowledge your letter of the 18th December to him, in which you enclose a communication from the First Lord of the Admiralty, to the effect that the necessary action concerning the 'Rainbow' is being taken, for which I am very much obliged.

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister.

13th January, 1910.

Dominion, London.

Please obtain information from Admiralty when 'Rainbow' will be completed.

BRODEUR.

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

London, 7th February, 1910.

Brodeur, Ottawa.

Your cable thirteenth ultimo. Admiralty state impossible give at present definite date for completion 'Rainbow.' Anticipated will be out of Dockyard hands by end May but impossible make definite statement before beginning March when survey ship completed.

DOMINION.

17 Victoria St., London, S.W.,
8th February, 1910.

The Honourable L. P. Brodeur, M.P.,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Brodeur,—

Your cablegram of the 13th ultimo, reading as under, reached me in due course:—

'Please obtain information from Admiralty when 'Rainbow' will be completed,' and I had pleasure in at once communicating with the Admiralty on the subject.

I have kept the matter before me, but it was not until Monday last that I was able to cable you any information. I had then received a letter from the Admiralty, date the 4th instant, copy of which I enclose herewith, for your information, on which I was able to base the following cable message:—

'Your cable 13th ultimo.—Admiralty state impossible give at present definite date for completion 'Rainbow'—anticipated will be out of dockyard hands by end of May but impossible make definite statement before beginning March when survey ship completed.'

I will keep you notified, by cable, of the further information that reaches me on the subject.

STRATHCONA.

Admiralty, 4th February, 1910.

The High Commissioner for Canada,
17 Victoria Street, S.W.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 15th January, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that it is not possible to give at present a definite date for the completion of the fitting out of the 'Rainbow.' It is anticipated she will be out of Dockyard hands by the end of May, but this must be accepted as approximate only, and it will not be possible to make a more positive statement before the beginning of March, when the survey of the ship has been completed.

Every effort will be made to complete the 'Rainbow' by an earlier date if possible.

C. I. THOMAS.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 146

22nd February, 1910.

Right Honourable

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, G.C.V.O., G.C.M.G.,
17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Dear Lord Strathcona,—

In the absence of Mr. Brodeur through illness, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, with which you forwarded a copy of a letter received from the Admiralty in answer to your enquiries, made on our behalf, of them, as to when the 'Rainbow' would be completed, for which I am very much obliged indeed.

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister.

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